

Answer key

Lesson 1, quiz 1

1. A, True

Melville started a whaling voyage on the *Acushnet* of New Bedford. He deserted the voyage in the Marquesas Islands.

2. B, False

Nantucket was the original center of the whaling trade, but after about the first third of the century, it was surpassed by New Bedford.

3. A, True

The *Essex* sank in 1820 after being attacked by an 80-foot sperm whale. This true-life story was the basis, in part, for *Moby-Dick*.

4. B, False

Whale oil, which was very high quality, was used in lamps and candles to provide light before the advent of electricity.

5. B, False

Queequeg shares some characteristics of these historical islanders, but also has some exaggerated aspects, such as his cannibalism.

6. B, False

Ishmael clearly has some morbid fascinations, but he has a dark sense of humor to accompany them.

7. B, False

A long lay means that you will receive only a small fraction of the whaleship's profits.

8. A, True

Although he is initially frightened of Queequeg, Ishmael soon finds him to be superior in many respects to members of his own society.

Lesson 2, quiz 1

1. B, False

Everything aboard a whaleship was strictly regimented according to rank. Officers enjoyed a much better quality of life, including better food and living accommodations.

2. B, False

Ahab is pursuing Moby Dick for the most personal of reasons: revenge.

3. B, False

As Ishmael explains, this was typical of the whaling trade. Remember as well his account of the many foreign men on the streets of New Bedford.

4. A, True

Starbuck never stops doubting Ahab's plan, and Ahab never listens to logic.

5. B, False

Ishmael also shows the humorous side of whaling, and is more than willing to poke fun at the foibles of the *Pequod's* officers and crew.

6. A, True

Whalemen could receive letters, but their delivery depended on the chance encounters of whaleships.

7. B, False

The men of the *Pequod* had no prior knowledge of Ahab's true mission for the voyage.

Lesson 3, quiz 1

1. B, False

The first harpoon toss would attach the whale to the whaleboat so that it could then be killed.

2. A, True

Ishmael frequently moves from discussing one to the other.

3. B, False

Ishmael is quite preoccupied with the whale's amazing anatomy.

4. B, False

Male whales form less permanent social bonds than females, but they do move in and out of groups of whales.

5. B, False

In England, royalty could seize whales caught along the coast.

6. A, True

He uses this code as a metaphor for humanity's vulnerability to mistreatment.

Lesson 4, quiz 1

1. B, False

Ahab might see Moby Dick as evil, but when he anoints his harpoon with blood, Ahab suggests that he is combating the white whale with similarly evil means.

2. A, True

At one point Starbuck debates killing Ahab, but in the end is unable to do so.

3. B, False

Fedallah predicts that Ahab won't die until he sees two hearses on the sea, and that even then, Ahab can only be killed by hemp.

4. B, False

Ahab flatly refuses to help search for the missing crew of the *Rachel*.

5. B, False

There may be as many as two million sperm whales alive and well today. Sperm whales are not in danger of extinction and are still being hunted in Indonesia's Lamalera.